

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method for transferring freight comprising:

providing a network of a plurality of ports disposed near corresponding urban areas;

causing a plurality of zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) to carry freight to and/or from a port and a corresponding urban area;

inducing through economic incentives a plurality of fossil fuel burning vehicles to utilize services of the ports to carry freight both to and from urban areas, utilizing the ZEVs associated with the ports; and

coordinating the transfer of freight between the plurality of ZEVs and the plurality of fossil fuel burning vehicles at the plurality of ports.

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

scheduling and dispatching the plurality of ZEVs relative to arrival at and departure from the plurality of ports at which freight is transferred between the plurality of ZEVs and the plurality of fossil fuel burning vehicles.

3. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

collecting fees from owners/operators of the plurality of fossil fuel burning vehicles by utilizing new or existing government fee collection agencies, or agents thereof, to fund the plurality of ports through a system of land port usage credits, which are credited to a land port credit exchange account of the owners/operators, upon payment of the fees.

4. The method of Claim 3 further comprising the step of:

providing a commodities exchange for the owner/operators of the plurality of fossil fuel burning vehicles to trade land port usage credits between and among

themselves, such that a first subset of owner/operators have credits debited from their accounts in exchange for payments issued by the Exchange, and a second subset of owner/operators have credits credited to their accounts in exchange for payments paid to the exchange by the second subset of owner/operators.

5. The method of Claim 4 further comprising the step of:
establishing, via the exchange, the fair market value of the credits, as determined by the market forces of supply and demand.

6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
providing the means for owner/operators to redeem their respective exchange credits for delivery services provided to them by the plurality of ports.

7. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
providing the means to transfer payment to land port operators from GFCAs, upon delivery of land port services to such owner/operators.

8. A method for transferring freight comprising:
providing a network of a plurality of ports disposed near corresponding urban areas;

inducing a plurality of zero emission vehicles to carry freight to and/or from a port and a corresponding urban area;

inducing a plurality of fossil fuel burning vehicles to carry freight in areas outlying the urban area to and from a corresponding port; and

coordinating the transfer of freight between the plurality of zero emission vehicles and the plurality of fossil fuel burning vehicles at the plurality of ports.

9. The method of Claim 8 further comprising the step of:

scheduling and dispatching the plurality of zero emission vehicles relative to arrival at and departure from the plurality of ports at which freight is transferred between the plurality of zero emission vehicles and the plurality of fossil fuel burning vehicles.

10. The method of Claim 8 further comprising the step of:

debiting and crediting accounts of owners/operators of the plurality of zero emission and fossil fuel burning vehicles as their vehicles deliver freight to and pick up freight from the plurality of ports.

11. The method of Claim 10 further comprising the step of:

collecting fees from owners/operators of the plurality of fossil fuel burning vehicles to fund the plurality of ports.

12. The method of Claim 8, wherein the plurality of zero emission vehicles are hydrogen fuel cell powered trucks.

13. The method of Claim 8, wherein the freight is contained and transferred in trailers between fossil fuel powered truck tractors and zero emission truck tractors.

14. A method for transferring freight from an outlying area to an urban area comprising the steps of:

providing a port by utilizing existing or new truck terminals;

inducing a fossil fuel burning vehicle carrying freight destined for an urban area to stop at the port;

transferring the freight from the fossil fuel burning vehicle to a zero emission vehicle; and

carrying the freight on the zero emission vehicle into the urban area.

15. A method for transferring freight from an urban area to an outlying area comprising the steps of:

providing a port by utilizing existing or new truck terminals;

inducing a zero emission vehicle carrying freight destined for an outlying area to stop at the port;

transferring the freight from the zero emission vehicle to a fossil fuel burning vehicle; and

carrying the freight on the fossil fuel burning vehicle into the outlying area.

16. A method for exchanging freight between an urban area and an outlying area comprising the steps of:

providing a port by utilizing existing or new truck terminals;

inducing a fossil fuel burning vehicle carrying a first freight destined for an urban area to stop at the port;

inducing a zero emission vehicle carrying a second freight destined for an outlying area to stop at the port;

transferring the first freight from the fossil fuel burning vehicle to the zero emission vehicle;

transferring the second freight from the zero emission vehicle to the fossil fuel burning vehicle;

carrying the first freight on the zero emission vehicle into the urban area; and

carrying the second freight on the fossil fuel burning vehicle into the outlying area.

17. The method of Claim 16 further comprising the step of:

scheduling and dispatching the zero emission vehicle relative to arrival at and departure from the port at which freight is transferred between the zero emission vehicle and the fossil fuel burning vehicle.

18. The method of Claim 16 further comprising the step of:

debiting and crediting accounts of owners/operators of the zero emission and fossil fuel burning vehicles as their vehicles deliver freight to and pick up freight from the port.

19. The method of Claim 18 further comprising the step of:

collecting fees from owners/operators of fossil fuel burning vehicles to fund the port.

20. The method of Claim 16 wherein the port is disposed proximate the perimeter of the urban area.

21. The method of Claim 16 wherein the first freight and the second freight are contained and transferred in trailers between a fossil fuel burning truck tractor and a zero emission truck tractor.

22. The method of Claim 16 wherein the zero emission vehicle is a hydrogen fuel cell powered truck.

23. The method of Claim 16, further comprising:

inducing a plurality of fossil fuel powered vehicles and a plurality of zero emission vehicles to stop at the port for transfer of freight therebetween.

24. The method of Claim 23, further comprising:

providing a plurality of networked ports, each adjacent a corresponding urban area, between which the fossil fuel burning vehicles carry freight.

25. A system for transferring freight between a plurality of fossil fuel burning vehicles and a plurality of zero emission vehicles comprising:

a plurality of ports disposed near corresponding urban areas;

a plurality of zero emission vehicles associated with each port and carrying freight to and from an associated port and a corresponding urban area;

a plurality of fossil fuel burning vehicles carrying freight in areas outlying the urban areas to and from the plurality of ports; and

a controller networked to the plurality of ports to coordinate the transfer of freight between the plurality of zero emission vehicles and the plurality of fossil fuel burning vehicles at the plurality of ports.

26. The system of Claim 25 further comprising:

a scheduling agency in communication with the controller for scheduling and dispatching the plurality of zero emission vehicles and/or the plurality of fossil fuel burning vehicles relative to arrival at and departure from the plurality of ports at which freight is transferred between the plurality of zero emission vehicles and the plurality of fossil fuel burning vehicles.

27. The system of Claim 25 further comprising:

a transaction agency in communication with the controller for debiting and crediting accounts of the owners/operators of plurality of zero emission and fossil fuel burning vehicles as their vehicles deliver freight to and pick up freight from the plurality of ports.

28. The system of Claim 27 further comprising:

a fee collection agency for collecting fees from owners/operators of the plurality of fossil fuel burning vehicles to fund the ports.

29. The system of Claim 25 wherein the plurality of ports are disposed about the perimeter of corresponding urban areas.